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ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

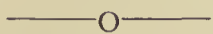
and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for

1955

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for

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Atherton Urban District Council

Public Health Committee

Chairman:

Councillor E. DONOGHUE.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor P. JONES.

Councillors

W. BARNES
W. BRETT
W. CAMPBELL
W. J. GEORGE
O. HATTON

A. HOLLIDAY
P. HUGHES
S. LOVELESS
M. McKIERNAN
A. D. NUTTER

H. PARTINGTON
J. J. QUINN
R. SHAW
J. STIRZAKER
C. URMSTON
J. WALSH.

Public Health Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

FRANK MARKLAND, M.S.I.A.
Cert. R.S.I. for Meat Inspection.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

THOMAS McGUIRE, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., I.S.A.A. (Dip.)
Cert. R.S.I. for Meat Inspection.

PART-TIME CLERICAL ASSISTANT:

Miss A. STREET.

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Section I — Shops Act.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Atherton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ending 31st December, 1955, together with certain relevant statistical information thereto.

Statistics.

The population of the district, following the Census of 1951, has been notified as 20,596.

During the year there were 253 live births, as compared with 277 the previous year, and 11 still births. The Live Birth Rate has declined from 1954, being 12.6 per thousand this year, and the Still Birth Rate takes a rise from 14 to 42 per thousand total births.

Again I am pleased to report no deaths as a result of child-birth.

Infant Mortality shows a welcome reduction, so that the Infantile Death Rate stands at 12, as compared to last year's 22.

Deaths from all causes totalled 262, giving a corresponding Death Rate of 14.0 for 1955.

Health Services.

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Administration Scheme 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district.

Essential details of the services provided will be found in Section B of the body of this Report.

Infectious Disease.

There has again been no serious outbreak of notifiable infectious disease in the district during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances.


As previously, the sanitary circumstances of the district have been kept under close review during the year, special attention being paid to food, water supplies, housing, smoke abatement and refuse disposal.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR.

SECTION A.

Statistics



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SECTION A. STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area in acres—2,265.

Population:—

1951 Census—20,596.

Mid 1955 Estimate—20,090.

Number of inhabited houses—6,467.

Rateable Value—£112,388.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£430.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.			Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	....	....	134	116	250
Illegitimate	....	....	3	—	3
			—	—	—
Total	....		137	116	253
			—	—	—

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population).....12.6

Still Births:—			Males.	Females.	Total.
			6	5	11

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)..... 42

Deaths—All Causes:—			Males.	Females.	Total.
			130	132	262

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)..... 13.0

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population)..... 14.0

Maternal Deaths Nil

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) Nil

Infantile Deaths 3

Infantile Death Rate 12

Neo-Natal Deaths 3

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate 12
Adjusted

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS.

	*Live Births		Stillbirths		*Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of deaths regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1955.....	253	12.6	11	42	262	14 0	nil	nil	3	12	3	12
Year 1954.....	277	13.7	4	14	239	12.6	nil	nil	6	22	4	14
Year 1953.....	318	15.1	2	6	437	22.9	nil	nil	14	44	9	28
Year 1952.....	323	15.2	11	33	252	13.1	nil	nil	5	15	2	6
Year 1951.....	264	12.9	10	36	275	13.4	il	nil	2	8	1	4
Year 1950.....	292	14 0	15	49	240	11.5	1	3.26	7	24	6	21
Ave. 5 years— 1950-54.....	—	14.2	—	27 6	—	14 7	—	0 65	—	22.6	—	14.6

* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.03) = 12.6 per 1,000.
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.07) = 14.0 per 1,000.

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955.
Registrar General's Return.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
Tuberculosis, other .....	...	...
Syphilitic Disease .....	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Meningococcal Infections .....	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	...
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	.	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	...	..
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	9	5
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	...	...
Diabetes .....	...	...
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	23	19
Coronary Disease, Angina	25	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	3
Other Heart Disease	15	32
Other Circulatory Disease	6	8
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	5	5
Bronchitis	4	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	...	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	...
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	...	...
Congenital Malformations	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	...
All other Accidents	4	...
Suicide	2	...
Homicide and operations of war	1	...
TOTAL	130	132

TABLE III.
CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING 1955, according to Age Groups.

CAUSE	Under 1	1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	Over 85	Totals
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria
Influenza
Measles
Acute Inf. Encephalitis
Cancer	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases of Circ. System
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum
Appendicitis
Other Digestive Diseases
Nephritis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pregnancy, other accidents
Prem. Births & Cong. Debility	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides
Violence, excluding Suicides
Senile Decay
Other Causes	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Road Traffic Accidents
TOTALS
	8	2	...	3	2	1	1	2	8	25	20	23	40	37	48	33	19	262

TABLE IV.
CAUSE OF DEATH DURING 1955.
Distribution:—In Wards (compiled locally).

CAUSE.	Hag	Fold	North	East	South	West	Central	Atherleigh Hospital	Sex		Total
									Males	F'mles	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	..	...			...	..	..	1	1	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ....	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Diphtheria ....	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Influenza	2	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Measles ....	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Cancer	5	7	7	3	9	7	1	19	20	39	
Diabetes ....	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	5	3	9	6	4	8	4	20	19	39	
Heart Diseases	11	7	13	8	18	22	6	41	44	85	
Diseases of Circ. System	2	6	5	2	5	3	4	12	15	27	
Bronchitis	2	1	...	3	2	1	2	6	5	11	
Pneumonia (all forms)....	3	...	2	1	2	2	...	5	5	10	
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	..	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	
Appendicitis ....	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Other Digestive Diseases	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Nephritis	1	...	2	...	1	2	...	3	3	6	
Pregnancy Other Acc. ....	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
Prem. Births & Cong. Debility....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Suicides ....	...	...	..	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	
Violence (excluding Suicides) ...	3	1	1	2	1	1	...	8	1	9	
Senile Decay ....	...	2	3	...	4	4	1	6	8	14	
Road Traffic Accidents.....	1	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	1	
Other Causes	2	1	3	1	1	3	..	4	7	11	
Totals (All Causes).....	39	28	47	27	47	55	19	130	132	262	

TABLE V.
VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth and death-rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1955.

(Provisional figures based on Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population, mid-1955 — 44,441,000.

	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population
Births:		
Live births	664,711	15.0
Stillbirths	15,748	0.35
		23.1 (a)
Deaths:		
All causes	518,657	11.7
Tuberculosis (all forms)	6,493	0.15
Respiratory	5,838	0.13
Non-respiratory	655	0.02
Cancer (all forms)	91,337	2.03
Lung and bronchus	17,271	0.39
Other cancer	74,066	1.67
Maternal mortality (total)	437	0.64 (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	369	0.54 (a)
Due to abortion	68	0.10 (a)
Infant mortality	16,515	24.9 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	11,518	17.7 (b)
Notifications (corrected):		
Typhoid Fever	190	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	871	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	1,126	0.03
Scarlet Fever	32,591	0.73
Whooping Cough	79,072	1.78
Diphtheria	169	0.00
Erysipelas	4,612	0.10
Smallpox	nil	nil
Measles	693,741	15.61
Pneumonia	27,899	0.63
Acute Poliomyelitis—		
Paralytic	3,710	0.08
Non-Paralytic	2,621	0.06
Acute Encephalitis—		
Infective	148	0.00
Post-Infectious	118	0.00
Dysentery	36,698	0.83
Food Poisoning	12,717	0.29
Puerperal Pyrexia	12,108	0.27
Tuberculosis—		
Respiratory	34,209	0.77
Meninges & C.N.S.	533	0.01
Other	4,162	0.09

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

SECTION B.

*General Provision of Health
Services for the Area.*

SECTION B.

Ambulance.

Atherton and Leigh Ambulance Stations. Tel. Leigh 939.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer:—Miss J. M. Cole, 89, Railway Road, Leigh.

Clinics.

1. ANTE-NATAL.
Alder House Clinic.
Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon
2. ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.
Alder House Clinic.
Each Monday and Thursday a.m.
3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.
(i) Alder House Clinic.
By arrangement, Monday afternoon of the 2nd and 4th week.
(ii) General Practitioner Service
4. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.
Alder House Clinic.
Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.
5. OPHTHALMIC.
Alder House Clinic.
Each Tuesday a.m.
6. ORTHOPAEDIC.
Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley.
2nd Wednesday afternoon each month
7. POST-NATAL.
Alder House Clinic.
Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon
8. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT.
Alder House Clinic.
Each Monday and Thursday a.m.
9. SPEECH THERAPY.
Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

10. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY AND CHEST CLINIC

Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

11. VENEREAL DISEASES.

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males and Females—Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

(ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Females—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 4-30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service.

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

Home Help Service.

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service.

Two full-time District Nurses employed in the district.

Hospitals.

1. **General**—Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital.
2. **Infectious Disease**—Astley Hospital, Astley; Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton.
3. **Maternity**—Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Maternity Homes.

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Haslam, Havercroft & Heaton Grange Maternity Homes, Bolton.

Midwifery Service.

Domiciliary midwives employed whole time in the area by Lancs. C.C.

Nursing Homes.

None in the district.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.

Residential accommodation at Hourigan House, Leigh, and Atherleigh Grange, Leigh.

X-ray Facilities.

At Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

SECTION C.

*Prevalence of
and Control over Infectious
and other Diseases.*

SECTION C.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Chickenpox (Varicella).

This disease is not notifiable in the district.

Diphtheria.

No case was notified, but the need to protect the community by immunisation remains.

Dysentery.

Eight cases were notified, four of which were admitted to hospital.

Encephalitis.

No case of this infectious disease of the brain was notified.

Erysipelas.

Three cases were reported during the year. One was admitted to hospital.

Food Poisoning.

Food poisoning is notifiable under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

No cases were notified.

Malaria.

No new or relapsed case has been notified.

Measles.

This year the number of cases was 316. Last year 20 cases were notified. The disease again tended to be mild in character and without untoward complications.

Meningococcal Infection.

No case notified.

Mumps (Infective Parotitis).

This infection of the salivary glands is not notifiable.

Paratyphoid Fever.

No case was notified.

Pneumonia.

Fifteen primary cases were reported, as compared with fourteen the previous year, and there were ten deaths.

Polioencephalitis.

No case reported.

Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

No cases were reported.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case was notified, and was treated at home.

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-two cases were reported, as compared with twenty-seven in 1954.

Smallpox (Variola).

No case occurred in the district during the year under review.

Vaccination and re-vaccination remain our most potent defensive weapons against the disease.

Tuberculosis.

Fifteen new cases of pulmonary infection and none of non-pulmonary infection were notified. Last year there were six cases and five cases respectively.

Two deaths from this disease occurred during the year.

Typhoid Fever.

No case was notified.

Whooping Cough.

Fourteen cases were notified, compared to forty-nine last year.

Immunisation, which is now available, holds out the only immediate hope of reducing both the incidence and the morbidity.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1955.

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TABLE VII.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1955.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

DISEASE.	Mad Fold Ward	North Ward	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Sex		Total	Removed to Hospitals
							M.	F.		
Diphtheria .....	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	6	...	...	1	1	...	2	6	8	4
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	3	1
Food Poisoning .....	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (except German Measles)	92	58	48	58	38	32	156	160	316	...
Meningococcal Infection .....	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	5	2	2	...	2	4	6	9	15	2
Acute Polioencephalitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Poliomyelitis .....	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever	10	3	6	...	2	1	10	12	22	8
Smallpox .....	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	5	2	2	2	1	2	9	5	14	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—										
Males.....	2	2	...	...	..	5	9	...	9	4
Females.....	2	...	..	3	1	...	...	6	6	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis										
Males.....	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Females.....	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	123	68	59	59	40	45	193	201	394	21

TABLE VIII.
 Table relating to vital statistics and notified infectious diseases in Sierra Leone.

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	3	3	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	13	2
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	40	3	34	...	...	...	...	...	1	55	...	17	5
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	20	2	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	88	...	19	8
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	31	3	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	7	2
1920	24.1	12.7	...	109	24	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	...	2	2
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	29	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	...	1	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	1	...
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	...	...	...
1937	14.0	11.2	12.7	51	108	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	...	...	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	...	...
1940	15.5	12.0	...	35	9	...	3	695	...	...	...	...	...	88	...	...	...
1941	16.1	12.5	...	75	16	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	48	...	...	...
1942	16.5	10.3	...	74	12	5	...	272	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...	...
1943	18.2	1.8	...	74	12	2	2	191	...	...	...	...	...	49	...	...	...
1944	16.29	91.86	...	60	8	...	1	382	...	...	...	...	...	70	...	...	...
1945	17.9	21.3	...	23	2	...	...	66	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...	...
1946	17.6	10.9	...	33	5	...	...	511	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	...	...
1947	19.7	13.3	...	50	1	...	1	77	...	...	...	...	...	79	...	...	...
1948	15.2	10.0	...	28	1	...	...	364	...	...	...	...	...	104	...	...	...
1949	14.7	12.8	...	13	...	...	...	131	...	...	...	...	...	124	...	...	...
1950	14.0	11.5	13.7	24	...	...	1	415	1	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	...
1951	12.9	13.4	12.3	8	...	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	59	...	...	...
1952	15.8	12.4	14.2	15	...	...	...	494	...	...	...	...	...	97	...	...	...
1953	15.1	21.6	13.1	44	...	...	...	104	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	...
1954	13.7	11.8	12.6	22	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	27	...	...	...
1955	12.6	13.0	14.0	12	...	...	...	316	...	...	...	15	2	22	...	...	...



SECTION D.

*Sanitary Circumstances
of the Area.*

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The town's water is derived in bulk from the Manchester and Bolton main supplies. Each house is connected to the mains and has its own internal supply of water of good quality, which is maintained at constant pressure.

The water is bacteriologically examined and analysed at Manchester and Bolton at regular intervals; 53 local samples being so examined during the year under review.

There is a slight tendency to plumbo solvent action, for which it is treated by the supplying authorities before delivery to our mains. The tin lining of all lead service piping is insisted upon.

Streams.

Streams within the district are examined periodically to prevent pollution. There are no dye or artificial silk works in Atherton.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage is of the type known as the Combined System. Extensions to include housing estates were made during the year. Sewage is dealt with by the Leigh Sewerage Board.

Sanitary Accommodation.

At the end of 1955 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz.:—

Number of Privy Middens	Nil
Number of Closets attached to these Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets	21
Number of Trough Closets	7 (at schools)
Number of Waste Water Closets	737
Number of Fresh Water Closets	6915
Number of Dry Ashpits	Nil
Number of movable Ashbins.....	6588
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	6440

Conversions during 1955:—

Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Closets to Fresh Water Closets	60
Number of Trough Closets to Fresh Water Closets	Nil

The Council's scheme for the conversion of waste water closets was suspended by the Ministry of Health on the outbreak of war in 1939. An application for permission to resume the conversion of defective and broken waste water closets was allowed during 1952, the Council now making a contribution of £9 towards the cost of each conversion.

Disinfestation.

As previously, 5% D.D.T. solution has been used as a spray for disinfesting houses, supplemented where necessary by the removal of door and window casings, etc., together with scorching with a blow-lamp all exposed affected surfaces.

Two Council and four privately-owned houses were so treated during the year.

Scavenging.

A weekly collection of refuse is operative in the district, utilising four motor vehicles. Approximately 9,000 tons of refuse were collected and removed.

House refuse is finally disposed of at Millers Lane Tip, where the Ministry of Health's regulations in respect of control are practised.

Salvage of paper, metals, kitchen waste, etc., was again maintained throughout the year, and the income from this source realised the sum of over £2,300.

Street sweeping is the responsibility of the Surveyor and is carried out by means of manual labour.

Factories and Workplaces.

These premises are inspected periodically, and the general condition is fairly satisfactory. Particulars are contained in Table IX.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The destruction of rats and mice was continued throughout the year at premises within the district.

As a Public Health measure, no charge is made for rat destruction at private houses, but unfortunately there appears to be a belief that this act of grace relieves the occupier of all responsibility, with the result that they do very little to help themselves.

I would emphasise that the onus of ridding premises from rats and mice is on the occupier of the premises. Although the Council is willing to give every assistance in this direction, the Local Authority has the power to take action against any occupier who fails to carry out his obligations.

Warfarin is now used extensively in the treatment of business and other premises, and results are very satisfactory.

All the sewers were treated twice, and the usual method of three days' pre-baiting, followed by poison bait, was adopted. On each treatment this work necessitates the baiting of approximately 532 manholes in all parts of the district. Although the relative number of pre-bait "takes" was low, poison baits were placed in the majority of manholes.

Sausage rusk formed the pre-bait, to which Zinc Phosphide was added for the poisoning in the first treatment, and bread mash, plus Arsenical Oxide, was used in the second treatment, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths are owned by the Council, who have installed a modern filtration and chlorination plant. They are maintained in a most satisfactory manner.

Samples of water taken from the plunge bath after a period of considerable usage have, on examination by the Public Health Laboratory, proved to be quite satisfactory.

All the water used for bathing purposes is drawn from the town's supply.

Schools.

The general structure of the schools in the town is in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises of this nature in the town.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Two houses are registered for this purpose, and generally are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Rag Flock Acts.

There is only one workshop in Atherton where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold. The sample submitted for examination was satisfactory.

TABLE IX.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PREMISES.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities....	10	17	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	87	92	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	5	8	1	—
Total	102	117	14	Nil

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops.

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found.	Abated.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	2
Want of Ventilation	2	2	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	3	3	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	2
Other offences against the Act	1	1	—
Total	14	14	4

SECTION E.

*Inspection and Supervision
of Food.*

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Places under Inspection.

The number of food premises, by type of business, at the end of 1955, were as follows:—

Grocers	87
Bakers	22
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream, etc.)	37
Fried Fish Shops	19
Meat Shops (Butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.)	26
Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	8
Canteens, Snack Bars, etc.	49
Others	4

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, include:—

	No. of Premises.	No. of Inspec- tions during 1955
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit & Vegetables	17	25
do. Meat & Meat Products	2	5
Bakehouses	22	143
Fried Fish Shops	19	67
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises	6	25
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises	17	73
Ice Cream Shops	68	184

Food Inspection.

Premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of foodstuffs are inspected frequently, and are generally found to be maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Clean Food Bye-laws are now in operation in the town, and after overcoming initial difficulties, the department has obtained the willing co-operation of the majority of food traders.

Premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice cream have been regularly visited, and considerable improvements in the premises and the finished product have been effected. The “Codes of Practice” evolved by the Lancashire County Council have been adopted in order to maintain uniformity throughout the county.

There are 2 premises registered for the manufacture and 68 for the sale of ice cream.

20 samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue test, of which 19 attained Grade 1, and 1 Grade 3.

Food hawkers and their premises are registered and are visited periodically. Generally these are quite satisfactory.

Slaughter-houses.

There are four slaughter-houses licensed in the district, and in spite of the hurried preparation of them on the termination of the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order, slaughtering of animals is proceeding fairly satisfactorily.

The details of animals killed and inspected are as follows:—

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
No. Slaughtered	306	831	14	3664	382
No. Inspected	306	831	14	3664	382

All Diseases other than T.B.

Whole carcasses condemned....	1	1	1	12	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	77	153	--	355	19
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	25.2	18.4	7.0	9.7	5.0

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	—	—	--
Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned	89	217	—	—	33
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with Tuberculosis	29.0	26.0	--	—	8.4

Unsound Food.

The food condemned as unfit for human consumption was as follows:—

32 tins Corned Beef	179 lbs.
14 tins Cooked Ham	178 lbs.
20 tins Cooked Shoulder	253 lbs.
6 tins Tongue	34 lbs.
34 tins Pork Luncheon	58 lbs.
13 tins Stewed Steak	13 lbs.
30 tins Meat Paste	7½ lbs.
3 tins Chicken	8½ lbs.
3 tins Jellied Veal	18 lbs.
63 tins Fruit (Pineapple, Peaches, etc.)....	75½ lbs.
3 tins Cream	1 lb.
10 tins Evaporated Milk	8 lbs.
25 tins Vegetables	21 lbs.
55 tins Tomatoes	70 lbs.
6 tins Baby Food	6 lbs.
2 tins Tuna Fish	1 lb.
8 tins Pilchards	4 lbs.
3 tins Shrimps	1 lb.
5 bottles Sauce	8 lbs.
Apples	8 cwt.
Sausage	36 lbs.
Cooked Ham	8 lbs.
Cooking Fat	12 lbs.
Margarine	6½ lbs.
Bacon	10½ lbs.
Ham	13 lbs.
Cheese	6½ lbs.
Currants	50 lbs.
Custard Powder	71 lbs.
Baking Powder	16 lbs.
Biscuits	60 lbs.
Cake	7 lbs.
Apricots	28 lbs.
Prunes	38 lbs.

Milk Supply.

Atherton has now become a designated area for the sale of milk, and the raw milk can only be obtained from 'Tuberculin Tested' cows. All other milk must be Pasteurised or otherwise heat treated before reaching the public, thus creating a barrier to the spread of the bovine type of Tuberculosis.

There are 18 farms in the district, with an approximate total of 250 cows. 59 milk shops are registered for the sale of bottled milk only. In addition, 3 Dealers' Licences for distribution of "Tuberculin Tested", 5 Licences for "Pasteurised" and 3 Licences for "Accredited" Milk were issued by the Council.

Action taken by the Local Authority in relation to:—

(a) Raw Milk:

- (i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—
No. of samples 41. No. positive 1. No. negative 40.
- (ii) Methylene Blue Test—
No. of samples 41. No. satisfactory 40. No. unsatisfactory 2.
- (iii) Sediment tests—
No. of samples nil. No. satisfactory nil. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(b) "Heat treated" milk:

- (i) Phosphatase test—
No. of samples 4. No. satisfactory 4. No. unsatisfactory nil.
- (ii) Turbidity test—
No. of samples 2. No. satisfactory 2. No. unsatisfactory nil.
- (iii) Tuberculosis—
No. of samples nil. No. positive nil. No. negative nil.

All the farms are connected to the town's water supply.

41 samples of raw milk were submitted for the presence of tubercle bacilli, of which 40 were found to be negative and 1 positive, and this latter was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

41 other samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, 39 of which were found to be satisfactory.

No. of notifications of tuberculous milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—1.

Results of Ministry investigations during the year arising from notifications by the local authority—

No. of veterinary inspections—3.

No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938—1.

No. of cases reported negative, where animals have been sold

No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized—nil.
prior to investigation—nil.

No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized—nil.

Bakehouses.

22 Bakehouses are registered in the district, and are kept in quite a satisfactory condition.

Ice Cream.

68 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. So far as possible, registrations are restricted to the sale of "pre-packed" ices, or to where "cold-mix" is used. In two instances only is the "hot-mix" used for sale on the premises.

All the premises are visited periodically, and the requirements of the Ice Cream Regulations and the Food and Drugs Act are insisted upon.

16 samples were submitted for examination, of which 14 attained Grade 1 and two Grade IV.

Food Premises.

All shops, stalls, vans, food stores, food preparing premises, are inspected regularly as part of routine work.

Improvements, particularly in respect to cleanliness and washing facilities, have been obtained in a number of instances.

The requirements of the Lancs. C.C. (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, as to registrations of food premises, etc., are carried out.

Clean Food Campaign.

General advice and assistance to shopkeepers and food handlers is given by the Sanitary Inspectors when visiting the premises, and pamphlets have been distributed. Clean Food Bye-laws are now in operation, and, generally speaking, are favourably accepted by the food handlers.

Food Adulteration.

The Lancs. County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this work, and this Council the co-opting body. The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied me with the following information:—

A total of 100 samples was obtained, of these 62 were of milk and the 38 others comprised:—

2 Flour.	1 Milk, condensed, full cream, sweetened.
1 Treacle.	2 Milk, condensed, full cream, unsweetened.
1 Stewed Steak, canned.	1 Pickles.
1 Curry Powder.	2 Lemon Cheese.
2 Oatmeal.	1 Sauce.
1 Dressed Crab, canned.	1 Vanilla Flavouring.
2 Zinc Ointment.	1 Lemon Flavouring.
2 Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine.	2 Fruit, dried.
1 Jam.	3 Soup, canned.
1 Canned Sardines.	1 Brewer's Yeast Tablets.
3 Custard Powder.	1 Table Jelly.
1 Buttered Brazils.	1 Bengers Food.
1 Butter Toffee.	1 Baby Food.
1 Butterscotch.	

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
1 Ammoniated tincture of quinine	Ammonia 0.66% w/v. Deficient of 0.19% of the minimum amount of ammonia.	Vendor communi- cated with.
1 formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.0% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 3.1% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 Lemon flavouring	No name and address of packers on label.	Packers communi- cated with.

SECTION F.

Housing

SECTION F.

HOUSING.

	Houses.	Flats.
Number of New Houses erected during the year:—		
(i) By the Local Authority	18	81
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	3	—
(iv) Shops with flats above (included in (i) above)	—	5

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	982
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	1367
(2) Dwelling - houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) No. found during year	224
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	217
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	731

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repair and Rents Act. 1954:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:	
(a) Unfit houses	Nil
(b) Other houses	Nil
(2) Number of persons displaced	Nil

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of houses.	No. of persons displaced.
Houses demolished or closed during year—		
(a) Housing Act, 1936—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	10	26
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	—	—
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	—	—

(b) Housing Act, 1949:—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2)	—	—
---	---	---

(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	2	4
--	---	---

(2) Repairs during the year:

*No. of
houses.

(a). Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	605
--	-----

(b) †Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—

(i) By owners	106
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16).

Houses made fit:—

(i) By owners	20
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	2

(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954:

Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil
--	-----

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7....	Nil
---	-----

(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
--	-----

(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil
---	-----

* A defective house remedied more than once during the year should be included once only.

† Refers to action taken with regard to housing defect. Notices with regard to other premises, drainage and other defects should be included under Sanitary Inspections on page 6.

Housing Acts, 1949-1954. Improvement Grants, etc.

Throughout the year advances were made in a number of instances under Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1949.

The question of improvement grants under Section 20 of the same Act was considered by the Council, but no decision arrived at, and no grants were allowed.

General Inspections.

Houses (including re-visits)	1367
Newly infected houses	159
Schools	18
Factories and Workplaces	117
Bakehouses	209
Food-preparing places	200
Dairies	125
Miscellaneous	264
Shops	385
Slaughter-houses	541
Total	3385

And in connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found.	Remedied.
House roofs in need of repair	98	95
Defective W.C.'s	55	52
Choked or defective drains	61	61
Defective plaster of walls, etc.	121	124
Insanitary condition of yards	16	16
House walls damp	83	81
Defective eaves gutters	101	102
Defective window frames, sash cords, etc.	92	90
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	14	14
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, burst pipes, etc.)	275	269
	916	904

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:—

Informal	....	....	....	....	315
Statutory	....	....	....	....	126

General Conditions.

As is usual with most industrial towns, there is in this district a large proportion of cottage property built in terraces. The average age of this type is from 80 to 90 years, and their condition is moderately well maintained. Other property, also in rows, of a better type, were built about 50 or 60 years ago. A fair number of these are owner-occupied and generally maintained in good condition.

Practically all houses erected since 1920 are of the semi-detached type.

There are no back-to-back houses in the district.

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.

In common with most towns, the shortage of houses is slowly becoming less acute. At the end of the year there were over 600 applications for Council houses.

The present requirements are approximately 550 additional houses, chiefly of the two-bedroomed type.

At the end of the year the erection of 84 dwellings was in progress, and a further scheme of 150 dwellings was contemplated.

Fitness of Houses.

Housing remains perhaps the greatest present-day public health and social problem. The position and difficulties in the district are, by and large, as elsewhere in the country, i.e., shortage of new houses, and difficulty of securing adequate repairs to existing houses, due to high cost of labour and materials.

Housing Inspection.

A slight improvement in the housing conditions can be gratefully recorded.

During the year, housing inspections have continued to be one of the chief matters dealt with, and in spite of the high costs of repairs and the extreme difficulties of getting workmen 'on the job', some progress has been recorded. I feel I must refer to delay which occurs before property owners can persuade property repairers to carry out necessary work. This is probably due to more remunerative work elsewhere, and the shortage of suitable workmen. The direct result is that we have in many cases the utmost difficulty in getting essential repairs carried out, especially on 'rented' properties. Indeed, it is not uncommon that we ourselves often have to press the workmen to make a start, as the appeals of the owners seem to be without effect. While this state of affairs exists, it cannot be expected that much progress will be made in securing better conditions to rented houses.

The survey carried out under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, revealed that at least 217 houses should be demolished during the next five years, and Clearance Order procedure was commenced regarding the Water Street Clearance Area, which comprises of twelve houses.

Ten other houses were dealt with as individually unfit, and a further two were closed.

SECTION G.

*Atmospheric Pollution,
and
Smoke Abatement.*

Atmospheric Pollution.

Deposit gauges are provided, in addition to lead peroxide apparatus at the two stations set up at the St. George's School and Alder House sites.

The readings obtained are as follows:—

Monthly Deposits in Tons per Square Mile and Sulphur Dioxide by the Lead Peroxide Method.

	Rainfall in mm.s	pH	Tons Insoluble Deposit	per square Soluble Deposit	mile Total Solids	SO ₂ /mg. day 100cm ²
Alder House.						
January	.... 58	4.1	10.88	7.67	18.55	3.16
February	.... —	—	—	—	—	3.46
March	.... 38	3.4	7.9	5.54	13.45	3.16
April	.... 59	4.3	9.72	4.96	14.68	2.46
May	.... 58	4.5	12.73	6.02	18.75	2.08
June	.... 75	4.2	22.93	7.29	30.22	1.57
July	.... 6	6.8	21.56	1.47	23.03	1.13
August	.... 28	5.8	21.49	5.54	27.03	1.19
September	.... 83	4.4	12.45	7.84	20.29	1.12
October	.... 55	4.5	12.87	8.14	21.01	2.49
November	.... 46	4.4	12.83	4.65	17.48	3.64
December	.... 114	3.9	12.15	10.78	22.93	3.30

St. George's School.

January	.... —	—	—	—	—	4.21
February	.... —	—	—	—	—	3.91
March	.... 7	4.4	—	—	—	3.33
April	.... 57	4.1	—	—	—	2.66
May	.... 55	4.0	12.69	5.09	17.78	2.27
June	.... 84	4.0	14.68	7.26	21.94	1.84
July	.... 18	6.2	17.47	2.58	20.05	1.04
August	.... 26	5.9	13.79	3.40	17.19	1.29
September	.... —	—	—	—	—	1.64
October	.... 22	4.4	—	—	—	2.43
November	.... 43	4.2	12.66	4.50	17.16	3.74
December	.... 125	3.8	16.06	6.40	22.46	3.52

As will be seen from the above, several records are incomplete. This is due to breakage of bottles by frost and disturbance of the apparatus by high winds and/or suspected interference.

Full particulars of the observations are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Fuel Research Station, London, of which this Council is a member of the Standing Joint Committee.

This branch of Public Health work is being pursued by Local Authorities in all parts of the country. We all await the proposed Clean Air Bill and hope that the collaborated efforts of Local Authorities, Industry and Fuel Research Station, will lead to a healthier and cleaner atmosphere, to the mutual benefit of industry and the community in general.

Smoke Abatement.

23 smoke observations were taken during the year.

Bye-laws are now in operation controlling the emission of black smoke to a permitted maximum of 2 minutes in any half-hour.

The local Gasworks continues to cause considerable nuisance by the emission of smoke and fumes during the retort charging operations. It would appear that this is unavoidable, due to the horizontal type of retorts which are in use. This being the case, it would seem that now Atherton is linked by large gas-mains to neighbouring towns, the Atherton Gasworks should be either closed down and the supply of gas derived from other gasworks, or that other suitable measures should be taken to abate the nuisance.

Fairly close co-operation is maintained with industrial firms in efforts to combat the smoke nuisance.

SECTION H.

National Assistance Act, 1948
Section 47.

SECTION H.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the provisions of this section as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

SECTION I.

Shops Act.

SECTION I

SHOPS ACT.

A total of 385 inspections were carried out under the Shops Act, 1950.

I am pleased to report that once again the shops have kept quite a good standard throughout the year.

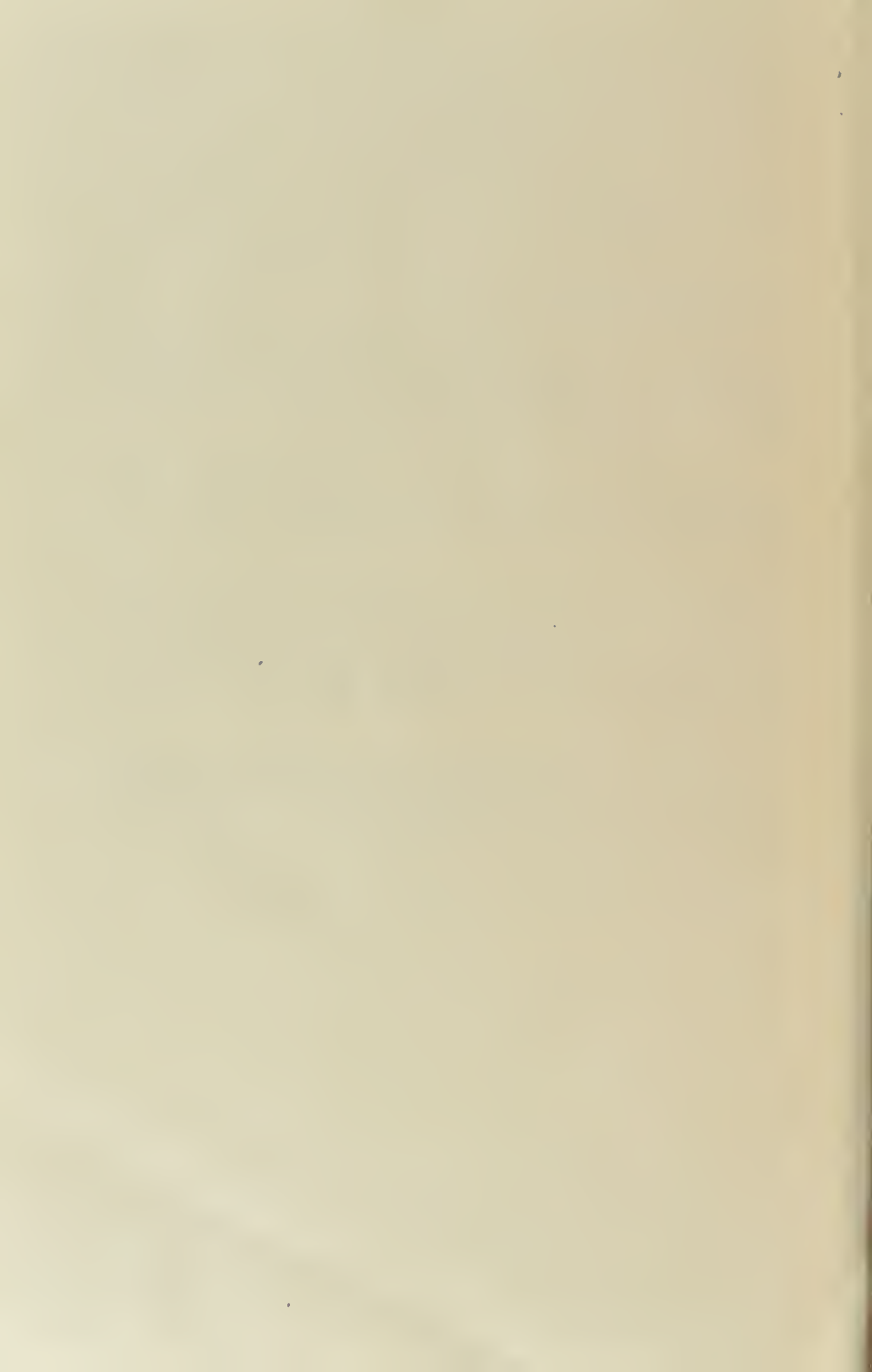
Decorating and repair of food store-rooms, provision of impervious display shelves, counter tops and new equipments have progressed very favourably in a number of shops. The easing of the supply position of these articles has made it that shopkeepers can be reasonably expected to comply with demands made upon them.

Other Statutory requirements such as wash-basins, sinks, toilet accommodation and facilities for meals of the assistants have all been kept under review, and in the main are satisfactory according to the Act as applied to the varying trades and size of the business.

Kecner competition has made managers of food shops more fastidious with their wares, and the buying public are quick to notice the more hygienic practises and principles. One or two shops did tend to overstock, with the attendant risk of rodent contamination, but again, as for equipment, the easing of the supply market has helped to curtail this practise, with more beneficial results to us as the inspectorate and to the public.

Assistants are still very hard to acquire, possibly due to the less remuneration than can be secured in other industries, and although this is not within the purview of the inspector, it has meant that occasionally malpractice does occur and the managerial retort is: "What can I do, inspector, with staff who are not wholly and truly interested?"

On the whole, however, a year of steady progress and quite encouraging.



ALGERO — PRINTER — ATHERTON